REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is requested. After entry of this amendment, claims 1, 2, 4-13, 16, 17, 33, 34 and 36-45 (a total of 26 claims) are pending in the application. Claims 1, 7, 10, 13, 16, 17, 33 and 34 are amended, and claims 36-45 are added.

In the office action dated October 6, 2005, the examiner rejects claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claim is directed to non-statutory subject matter; rejects claims 1-12, 16, 33 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention; and rejects claims 10, 11, 13, 17, 33 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Domenig, et al, A Query Based Approach for Integrating Heterogenous Data Sources.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC § 101

The examiner rejects claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, characterizing the claim as directed to non-statutory subject matter because it is unclear how the series of method steps are implemented. Applicant has amended the claim preamble to state that the method is computer-implemented.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112, 2ⁿᵈ Paragraph

The examiner rejects claims 1-12, 16, 33 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 1-9 and 34 (i.e., independent claims 1, 7 and 34), the examiner characterizes the term "allowing" as vague, with meaning unclear. Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 7 and 34, removing the term "allow" and "allowing."

Regarding claims 10-12 and 33 (i.e., independent claims 10 and 33), the examiner characterizes the term "pre-determined" as vague, as the specification does not appear to use the term. The examiner points out that consistency in use of terms is important to understanding the invention. Applicant has amended independent claims 10 and 33, removing the term "pre-determined," and has reviewed the claims for consistency in use of terms therein relative to those found in the specification.

Regarding claim 16, the examiner characterizes the phrase "to target the second one of the search providers" as vague. Applicant has amended independent claim 16, removing the phrase deemed vague, and replacing with terminology consistent with that found in the specification, and at least as found on page 9, lines 13-21.

Regarding claim 34, the examiner characterizes the phrase "adapting a portion of the user interface" as vague. Applicant has amended independent claim 34, removing the phrase deemed vague, and replacing with terminology consistent with that found in the specification, and at least as found on page 2, lines 22-28, and page 8, lines 3-10.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102(b)

The examiner rejects claims 10, 11, 13, 17, 33 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Domenig, et al, A Query Based Approach for Integrating Heterogenous Data Sources. In office action paragraph 8, the examiner states that Domenig teaches receiving information regarding one or more query properties from one or more search providers, and transmitting the information received to the user interface, wherein the

information is entered into a pre-determined one or more input fields or communicating the

query to one or more search providers.

Applicant respectfully traverses the examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as

being anticipated by Domenig, et al. First, Domenig is not 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) art. The

Domenig article shows a first publication in the year 2000. The instant application was filed

November 21, 2000. Accordingly, Domenig (the prior art) was not described in a printed

publication more than one year prior to the date of the instant application.

Second, Domenig fails to disclose (i.e., identically describe) each and every element

of claims 10, 11, 13, 17, 33 and 34. For instance, the examiner states that Domenig discloses

the transmitting of the information received to the user interface, wherein the information is

entered into a pre-determined one or more input fields. At page 458, first column, first

paragraph, Domenig purportedly teaches that users interact with a presentation layer

(including a user interface) and use it to submit their queries, as shown in Figure 5. Domenig

further teaches that in a separate mediation layer, a wrapper manager translates subqueries

into the query language of each source (search provider). In response thereto, sources return

results in their particular data model and the wrapper manager translates them back. At page

458, first column, second paragraph, Domenig teaches that "the mediation layer models

queries and data in a common data model which is used as a logically homogenized view of

the data of the underlying sources, but also as a means to support global processing."

Accordingly, Domenig does not disclose, teach or suggest, as recited in claims 10, 11,

13, 17, 33 and 34, transmitting the information received regarding the one or more of the

search providers to the user interface. Further, as recited in at least claims 10, 11, 13, 17 and

33, Domenig fails to teach or suggest entering the information received from the one or more

search providers into one or more input fields of the user interface. Regarding claim 34, Domenig fails to teach or suggest configuring the user interface based on the information received regarding the one or more of the search providers.

Further regarding independent claim 17, Domenig fails to teach or suggest displaying query property information received within the graphical user interface. Further regarding independent claim 34, Domenig fails to teach or suggest displaying the user interface configured based on query definition form information received. As discussed, Domenig fails to teach or suggest transferring any query property information to, or displaying query property information in, the user interface.

Added Claims

Dependent claims 36-45 are added in this response and amendment to more completely cover certain aspects of applicant's invention. Applicant submits that the added claims are patentable over the prior art of record. As discussed above, Domenig fails to teach or suggest: 1) that query property information received from the one or more search providers are query language features supported by one or more of the search providers; 2) inquiring to one or more of the search providers regarding query properties supported by one or more of the search providers; and 3) configuring and/or displaying the user interface based on the information received regarding the one or more search providers.

Dependent claims 36-45 find support throughout the specification and drawings, but specifically find support at least as follows:

claims 36, 39 and 42 on page 3, lines 2-7;

claims 37, 40, 43 and 45 on page 3, lines 2-7; and

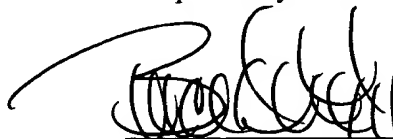claims 38, 41 and 44 on page 8, lines 3-10.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicant submits that pending claims 1, 2, 4-13, 16, 17, 33, 34 and 36-45 (a total of 26 claims) are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the examiner issue an early notice of allowance. The examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney in the event that a telephone interview will advance prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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